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TO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

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S/S - FOR BODINE - FOR TODMAN

FOLLOWING REPEAT BUENOS AIRES 3997 SENT ACTION MEXICO SECSTATE
31 MAY 77

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, AR

SUBJECT: ARIZONA GOVERNOR CASTRO QUOTED AS STATING HUMAN RIGHTS
NOT VIOLATED IN ARGENTINA

1. ARIZONA GOVERNOR RAUL CASTRO, WIDELY REPORTED IN ARGENTINA
PRESS MEDIA TO BE PRESIDENT CARTER'S CHOICE FOR US AMBASSADOR
TO ARGENTINA, WAS QUOTED IN MAY 29 BUENOS AIRES PRESS TO HAVE
STATED THAT "HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE NOT BEEN VIOLATED IN ARGENTINA."
ALLEGED QUOTES WERE TAKEN FROM
MEXICAN SOURCES, INCLUDING NEWSPAPER EXCELSIOR. GOV. CASTRO'S
REMARKS REPORTEDLY WERE MADE AT MEXICAN-US INTERPARLIAMENTARY

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MEETING AT HERMOSILLO.

2. GOV. CASTRO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S CONCERN
OVER HUMAN RIGHTS "DOES NOT SIGNAL ANY DISRUPTION OF DIPLOMATIC

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP
Change to
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RELATIONS OR OF FREINDSHIP BETWEEN ARGENTINES AND AMERICANS", AND ADDED THAT "THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS CANNOT INTERFERE IN THE POLICIES OF FREE AND SOVEREIGN NATIONS. RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY MUST BE MAINTAINED." ASKED WHETHER US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ARGENTINA MIGHT BE RESTORED, GOV. CASTRO WAS QUOTED AS SAYING: "I HAVE NO OFFICIAL INFORMATION REGARDING THAT, BUT I SEE A GREAT STRENGTHENING OF FRIENDSHIP AND RELATIONS OF ALL KINDS BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND THE US." HE NOTED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN IN SOUTH AMERICA FOR SEVEN YEARS AND THUS COULD NOT COMMENT ON THE PRESENT GOVERNMENTS IN THE REGION.

3. LOCAL PRESS INCLUDED NEWSAGENCY ANSA STATEMENT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN REINCORPORATING GOV. CASTRO INTO DIPLOMATIC SERVICE AND FOR THAT REASON "HAD PRESENTED HIS CANDIDACY TO CONGRESS."

4. AMEMBASSY MEXICO PLEASE CABLE FULL TEXTS OF ALLEGED COMMENTS AND ANY BACKGROUND INFORMATION AVAILABLE.
CHAPLIN

UNQUOTE VANCE

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